



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Howard Tanner, et al.

Divisional Application of

Application No.:

09/108,189

Examiner: J. Thissel

Filed:

July 1, 1998

Group: 3763

For:

AN INTRODUCER SHEATH FOR USE DURING A SURGICAL  
PROCEDURE

Attorney Docket No.:

23660-00611

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

DEC 15 2003

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Advisory Action mailed on October 24, 2003, please enter the Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 12 of this paper.